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June 20, 1977

Jualynne Dodson  
Atlanta University  
School of Social Welfare  
233 Chestnut Street S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Dear Jualynne:

Thank you so much for sharing your preliminary proposal concerning the Southern Resource Center for Black women at Atlanta University. The concept is very exciting and one that we, in Black Women Organized for Action, would certainly endorse.

In the whole thrust for evaluating the role of women in the society, Black women have sort of "fallen between the cracks." A substantial amount of interest has been generated in the white community and the organized women's movement is well aware of and involved in the implementation of the Women's Educational Equity Act. Too few Black women know about the Act and its implications for their growth and development. Obviously, we are concerned with the fact that Black women are at the bottom of the totem pole in many areas. Our organization was formed to create a center for the focus of Black women's concerns. While we have no hostility to the women's movement, and indeed support its general concepts, we know that, in the minds of most people, the women's movement is "not for Black women." The other side of the coin is that the civil rights movement is perceived as a movement which has primarily focused on the very real needs of Black men. What activities have been generated for Black women have been, almost totally, in urban areas. If your preliminary data are correct, and Black women are returning in large numbers to the Southern rural area, then attention must be paid to their needs and their concerns. As you have indicated, if these needs can be addressed effectively, we can find some way of transferring the knowledge gained in your proposed program to the needs of other rural women---and certainly, to urban women of all races and ethnic groups.

Please keep us informed of your progress, and if we can be of any help in supporting your proposal, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Aileen*  
AILEEN C. HERNANDEZ